



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 5, 2003

The Honorable Richard Pombo
Chairman, House Committee on Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pombo:

As the only state in the continental United States with no water running into it, Colorado is truly the "rooftop" of the arid west. As such, we continue to face a water crisis in which our water supplies have become inadequate to meet expanding needs. Demands by domestic users, industry, agricultural interests and environmental needs continue to grow with no relief in sight.

As you are aware, Colorado voters yesterday rejected a ballot initiative that would have given the state \$2 billion in bonding authority to help fund water development projects. In light of this outcome, the need to explore different ways to provide for future storage needs becomes all the more urgent. I have long advocated the need to get all the various stakeholders to the table to try and reach a consensus regarding Colorado's ability to meet its future water needs. As you know, the federal component of this issue is significant. Therefore, I would like to respectfully request that you convene a field hearing of the Water and Power Subcommittee in Denver to help focus the various interests on a common goal of consensus and progress.

This hearing will highlight the fact that in order to meet the growing demands of Colorado's exploding population, we must increase our capacity to store water that otherwise flows out of our borders. In the coming decades, the projected growth in Colorado's population will only worsen our water crisis. Now is the time to increase our water supply and efficiency for the future.

My staff and I would be more than happy to assist your staff with hearing preparation details. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Beauprez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Beauprez" clearly distinguishable.

Bob Beauprez